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Roofer hurt after falling 10 metres

ACCIDENT A 22-year-old roofer suffered serious injuries after falling 10 metres off the roof of a home on Second Avenue yesterday afternoon.

Ottawa paramedic spokesman J.P. Trottier said the man fell off a roof of a residence in the 300 block of Second Avenue at around 1:50 p.m.

He landed on his feet first, breaking both his ankles, and fell back, hitting his head on the pavement and causing a head injury.

He was conscious at the scene when paramedics arrived. He was taken to hospital, where he is listed in serious condition.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

News pg 4

Palin's look cost $150K

Sports pg 9

Ken Campbell gives you the Sens scoop

Food pg 14

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Honours **Warm welcome**

ELOY ALONSO/REUTERS

Canadian author Margaret Atwood, surrounded by traditional Asturian dancers, arrives yesterday in Oviedo, Spain. Atwood will be awarded with the 2008 Prince of Asturias Letters award at a traditional ceremony tomorrow in the Asturian capital. The awards reward scientific, technical, cultural, social and humanitarian work done by individuals, work teams and institutions.

Sewage system chaos

Investigation into spill reveals 'incompetent management'

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca

An investigation into the August 2006 spill that dumped nearly a billion litres of raw sewage into the Ottawa River was the result of "incompetent management" and a culture of misunderstanding, the city's auditor general said yesterday.

According to the report from Alain Lalonde, the Wastewater and Drainage Service Division showed "an almost complete lack of proper preventative maintenance and proactive management of [regulator gates]" and "a culture of not understanding the significance of sewage spills."

In interviews conducted with City employees, Lalonde said he got the impression that, even now, in their minds it was not a serious event.

"Management were kind of blase about this kind of thing, which I believe is a very serious issue," said Lalonde.

In August 2006, a sewage flow regulator gate near Keefer Street was jammed open for 10 days before it was discovered and repaired. According to the American Public Works Association, those gates are supposed to be inspected weekly and after each rainfall. However, the City was only inspecting the gates once per month. The report also says the reduction was due to "a lack of resources," but the document also notes, the Wastewater and Drainage Services Division posted surpluses of more than $500,000 for each of the last three years. Lalonde said weekly inspections would cost around $110,000.

"Proper maintenance was not there. The standards are there to regulate that. Money was not an issue. People were properly trained. It's not a complex situation," he said.

Alarms that would have alerted sewage engineers of a blockage failed shortly after amalgamation and were never repaired. The report has identified a total of 16 spills between 1998 and 2008.

Auditor general staff member Ray Kostuch said there were also issues of misunderstanding when spills should be reported to the Environment Ministry.

"Management often referred to these as extended combined sewer overflows. That's not what they are at all. They are spills, and that was part of the culture of not understanding," he said.

Changes underway

- Deputy City Manager Nancy Schepers called the report very disappointing. She said it is now their top priority to create a culture of standards compliance.
- Orleans Councillor Bob Monette called the findings of the report very frustrating, but he was convinced the city is taking the proper steps to move forward.

Candidates lining up to become top Liberal

POLITICS New Brunswick MP Dominic LeBlanc looks certain to run for the Liberal leadership as pressure mounts on former New Brunswick premier Frank McKenna to toss his hat in the ring as well.

And former justice minister Martin Cauchon told Torstar News Service he's "very much tempted" to join the contest to replace Stéphane Dion, who announced this week he was stepping down as party leader after a disastrous election showing that cost the Liberals 19 seats.

McKenna

While no one has officially declared intent to run yet, it's likely LeBlanc, who represents the riding of Beauséjour, will challenge Toronto MPs Bob Rae and Michael Ignatieff, the presumptive front-runners in the leadership race.

"He's planning to run and he's assembled a team that will surprise people," a Liberal strategist said yesterday.

LeBlanc, 40, is a Harvard-educated lawyer who was first elected in 2000. His father, Roméo LeBlanc, was a federal cabinet minister and then Governor General.

Meanwhile, McKenna, Canada's former ambassador to the U.S. and New Brunswick's Liberal premier for 10 years, is thinking about a leadership run, long-time friend David Peterson says.

If he decides to run, he would immediately become a frontrunner, Peterson, a former Ontario Liberal premier, told the Star.

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Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Ottawa 130 Slater Street, Suite 300, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6E2. Publisher C. Dave Kruse

Get your free flu shot

Starting this Saturday, Ottawa Public Health is hosting 40 free flu shot clinics across the city. Clinics run through Jan. 15. For clinic locations, visit Ottawa.ca or call 3-1-1. CITY OF OTTAWA

Ottawa

25¢

Ride buses for a quarter

The City of Ottawa will turn back the clock — on transit fares, that is — on Wednesday, Oct. 29. As a thank-you to customers and as a part of OC Transpo's weeklong event to celebrate 25 years of the Transitway, OC Transpo customers can ride the bus for 25 cents per ride all day. CITY OF OTTAWA

Highrise trash fires being investigated

DOWNTOWN Officials are investigating a series of suspicious fires after firefighters attended a trash compactor fire at a downtown apartment building for the fourth time in about two weeks yesterday. At approximately 2:28 p.m., firefighters attended a fire call at 415 MacLaren St. at Bank Street.

A dozen firefighters initially went to the call. Upon arrival, they discovered a fire in the trash compactor for the 23-storey residential high-rise building. Although Ottawa Fire Chief Chris Whitney said firefighters "knocked down the fire quickly," and there were no injuries, it is still of concern.

"There have been a few fires there recently," Whitney said. "There was one (Tuesday) night, last Wednesday, and a couple of weeks before that."

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

News in brief

PEDESTRIAN HIT A 19-year-old man is in critical condition after being struck by a vehicle in the city's east end Tuesday evening. Police said that at 6:30 p.m., a 19-year-old man was crossing Montreal Road near Carson's Road when a vehicle struck him. It was raining at the time of the collision. Paramedics rushed the pedestrian to the hospital, where he was listed in critical condition. The name of the victim was not released.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

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What's online today.

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Watch a report on the loonie's plunge at metronews.ca/canada
Check movie showtimes, trailers and reviews at metronews.ca/movies
Play online crosswords and Jumble Jong at metronews.ca/play

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These results are not official.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Rwanda Initiative co-ordinator and facilitator Allan Thompson stands next to Steve Simon's photo at the Living With exhibit, opening today at Carleton University.

Rwanda photo exhibit puts 'human face' on HIV-AIDS

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

A photography exhibit opening at Carleton University today will give Ottawans a rare opportunity to see Rwanda's HIV-AIDS epidemic in a different light.

Approximately 50 photos will be exhibited under the title Living With at the University Centre through Nov. 4.

An image of a man watching a doctor looking at lung X-rays. Street kids jumping into a pond on a hot day. A woman at a genocide memorial. Another standing among skulls.

"They're really powerful," said Allan Thompson, a professor with Carleton's journalism school and the co-ordinator and facilitator of the Rwanda Initiative, which partners the schools of journalism at the National University of Rwanda and Carleton University.

"They're certainly not standard news photos. This is a collection of really powerful personal human images from a place that we don't see enough of, on an issue that we can't be told enough about — the issue of HIV-AIDS in Africa."

Photosensitive

- Over 10 days, photographers Andrew Stawicki, Tony Hauser, Peter Bregg, Yuri Dojc, Kevin Van Paassen, Steve Simon and Lauren Vopni collected thousands of images across Rwanda. Members of the Toronto-based social photography group Photosensitive, the team also worked with Rwandan photographers to help develop their trade.

According to the United Nations, Rwanda has approximately 200,000 people living with HIV-AIDS in a country of less than nine million.

"The rationale for looking at this subject was to put a human face on a story that people think they're familiar with," said Thompson. "They're aware of the issue of HIV-AIDS in Africa, but they can't always connect. These are really powerful images that have been captured. Some of them are sad, but others are kind of joyous — people embracing people with HIV-AIDS."

Carleton will be the second stop for the exhibit, which was already seen by tens of thousands of people in Toronto and is heading to Montreal, Vancouver and Halifax.

Truck driver charged after rush-hour collision

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

A 49-year-old fuel truck driver was charged after two women suffered minor injuries in a rush-hour collision in the city's east end yesterday morning.

Morning commuters travelling from Rockland to central Ottawa were delayed after a transport trailer and two cars collided on Regional Road 174 near Morin Drive at 6:29 a.m., said Ottawa Police Staff Sergeant Chris Renwick.

"What happened was two vehicles were struck by a transport tractor trailer," said Renwick.

Two women — a driver and a passenger — suffered minor injuries in the collision, Renwick said.

Paramedics transported the 56-year-old female driver to hospital, where she was treated for minor back injuries, said paramedic spokesman J.P. Trottier.

In addition to the three vehicles blocking both lanes of the two-lane highway, a guardrail was torn up in the collision. City workers also attended the scene, where they repaired it and regraded the shoulder, Renwick said.

Police closed Regional Road 174 from Cameron St. to Kinsella Rd. for cleanup and investigation. The road was completely reopened at 10:45 a.m.

Police charged the 49-year-old driver of the tractor-trailer for allegedly following too closely under the Highway Traffic Act.

Experts to sit on new board of health

COUNCIL The City of Ottawa could soon be looking for five health experts to sit with six councillors to form a new board of health.

Over arguments that a board of health must be held accountable to elected officials, city council voted for a board of health that will have a majority of councillors.

Currently, all 23 councillors and the mayor act as the board of health. A new board would require an amendment to the City of Ottawa Act.

Rideau-Rockcliffe Councillor Jacques Legendres warned that a board of health dominated by city councillors would overpoliticize the debates and frustrate and discourage qualified experts. He even suggested that there should be fewer councillors at the table. However, other councillors, like College Ward Rick Chiarelli argued that given the impact their decisions have on the community, the majority of the board must be accountable to the public.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Autopsy results due in drowning

KANATA Preliminary autopsy results were expected yesterday in the death of an eight-year-old girl at a city-run swimming pool in Kanata over the weekend.

Edine Ilunga was swimming at a birthday party at Kanata Leisure Centre Saturday night when lifeguards found her floating face down in the wave pool.

Although lifeguards and paramedics worked to revive Edine, she died a short time later at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

"I'm missing her. I wish she was here ... We loved her, she was a source of strength for the entire family," her father Edward Ilunga told CTV Ottawa.

"It's rare to see her crying or angry, most of the time she was always smiling ... I think she was trying to energize the family spirit, just a happy family."

CTVOTTAWA.CA

Canada, South Korea to talk beef exports
Canada will begin negotiations with South Korea on Nov. 3 to resume beef shipments to the Asian nation, which were banned in May 2003 due to mad cow concerns, Ottawa said yesterday. Before Korea closed its borders to Canadian beef, it represented the fourth largest market for the industry with $50 million in annual sales. REUTERS

Canada

No U.S.-style meltdown here: TD

The drop in Canadian home prices in September may not be as severe as it seemed, TD Securities said yesterday, bolstering the case that the country is not headed for a housing meltdown. A TD report argued that home prices fell 1.3 per cent in major Canadian markets in September, not the dramatic 6.2 per cent drop that was reported by the Canadian Real Estate Association last week. REUTERS

$500M deficit for Ontario

The province of Ontario, wounded by the global economic slowdown, expects to swing from a budget surplus to a deficit of $500 million in the current fiscal year as it projects revenues to be $918 million less than forecast in March.

The provincial government yesterday said that it plans to rein in spending on some programs and cut internal government expenditures to help limit the size of its first budget shortfall in four years.

Measures, such as delaying the hiring of nurses and cutting government travel, should preserve $108 million in the remaining five months of the fiscal year.

But overall spending in 2008-09 is expected to hit $96.3 billion, or $132 million higher than previously planned, due to rising health care-related expenses, it said.

"Economists have been forced by unprecedented economic volatility to dramatically alter their growth projections for the United States, for Canada, for Ontario, and for the world," Finance Minister Dwight Duncan told the provincial legislature in an economic and fiscal update.

Last March, Ontario had expected to balance its books in the 2008-09 year, which ends March 31, 2009, and the Finance Ministry reiterated that view in the summer.

But it is no longer "business as usual," Duncan said.

The province slashed its projection for 2008 economic growth to just 0.1 per cent, down from 1.1 per cent previously. For 2009, it sees economic growth of 0.7 percent, but did not make any budget projections for 2009-10 or beyond.

All Canadian provinces will face pressure from slowing revenues, said Mario Angastiniotis, a credit analyst in the public finance group of rating agency Standard & Poor's.

"I think the bigger risk is for 2009, because so far, while the economy has slowed down in manufacturing, overall Ontario's economy until the second half was still posting modest growth rates," Angastiniotis said.

REUTERS

Anti-poverty agenda to go ahead

• The Liberal government says it plans to continue with its anti-poverty agenda, despite the dire economic outlook for the province. While Ontario slows spending in some areas, the Liberal government will not back down on its commitments to fight poverty, said Deb Matthews, provincial chair of the cabinet committee on poverty reduction and Minister of Children and Youth Services.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Province puts 9,000 nursing hires on hold

HEALTH Palliative care nurse Catherine Mayers heard Premier Dalton McGuinty say the Liberal government would deliver on a promise to hire 9,000 nurses to help shore up the health system this past April when he spoke to an annual meeting of nurses.

Now that promise, along with the rollout of an additional 50 family health teams, is on hold because of shrinking government revenues and a fiscal crisis that has forced the Ontario government to run a $500- million budget deficit this year.

"We are completely disappointed," said Mayers from the 16th floor of the University Health Network's Princess Margaret Hospital. "We need these 9,000 nurses now."

Trial begins in case of alleged bid rigging

REAL ESTATE The civil trial into sensational allegations of corruption at the Ontario government's real estate arm finally opened yesterday after more than eight years with revelations of an elaborate bid rigging and forgery scheme near Toronto.

Ivan Sirman, an environmental services consultant, told a court that an official at Ontario Realty Corp. asked him to prepare two or three competing bids in addition to his own proposal for a supervisory contract on a cleanup project in the Pickering-Markham area in 1999.

"I was asked, 'can you make a few other bids,'" he said about the request from an ORC environmental co-ordinator.

"I was asked, 'can you make a few other bids.'" Ivan Sirman

The Ministry of the Attorney General and ORC have sued about 50 individuals and companies, alleging fraud, conspiracy, bid rigging, forgery and kickbacks in raw land sales and site clean-ups during the late 1990s.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Calgary **Biathletes shed clothes to raise funds**

ROBIN KUNSKI/FOR METRO CANADA

Five members of Canada's woman's elite biathlon team roller-skied down Calgary's Stephen Avenue yesterday to promote their new 14-month 'nude' calendar called Bold Beautiful Biathlon. The calendars, which go on sale for $25 on Nov. 1, will help raise money for team costs leading up to the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

Kay apologizes for drunken speech

FASHION The woman behind Toronto's biggest fashion event has apologized for delivering a speech while inebriated — an incident that overshadowed the launch of Fashion Week and disappointed one of the event's sponsors.

"I was exhausted and I didn't realize what was happening to me," said Robin Kay, president of the Fashion Design Council of Canada, who made the drunken speech on Monday night. She admitted she had had too much to drink.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

QUEBEC One of two men wanted in connection with the heist of more than a tonne of dynamite in northeastern Quebec has been arrested, CBC News Online reports. Provincial police apprehended Mike Gagnon, 28, on Tuesday night in Saint-Jean-Port-Joli, outside Quebec City.

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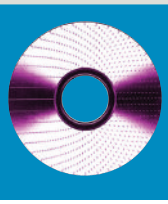
Fey reveals she glues her ears down

Saturday Night Live actress Tina Fey says she glues her ears down for her popular television impressions of Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin, but it took her a while to accept she was almost a perfect double of Palin. REUTERS

World

"Saudi Arabia is one of the countries that suffers greatly from piracy."

Saudi Arabia's Information Ministry official Abdulrahman al-Hazza



Censorship

Saudi Arabia has one of the world's worst records in protecting intellectual property rights, but retailers blame government censorship for driving music and movie piracy. REUTERS

Brit politician under attack

A Russian billionaire, a yacht on the Mediterranean, allegations of secret donations and betrayal — all the ingredients the British media need to start a feeding frenzy.

After being exposed by an old friend, a senior British opposition politician has admitted he met Russia's wealthiest man on his $150 million US yacht in the Mediterranean.

The Conservative party's chief spokesman on finance, George Osborne, says he has done nothing illegal. But the admission he met Oleg Deripaska several times last August, including once on his yacht, has revived an image of the Conservatives as elitist that they have long sought to shed.

Nathaniel Rothschild, a fund manager who is heir to a $1.5-billion banking fortune and helped set up the meetings on the island of Corfu, says Osborne used them to try to solicit a large donation to the Conservative party from Deripaska.

Osborne denies seeking any such donation, which would have been illegal as it would have come from a foreign citizen, but has confirmed almost everything else. REUTERS

Details

- Rothschild revealed the meetings in a letter to the Times newspaper, apparently irritated that Osborne had given details to the press of conversations he had on the yacht with another guest, Peter Mandelson, a senior Labour politician.

Italy **Protesters at film festival**

MAX ROSSI/REUTERS

A protester is blocked by a security guard as she enters the red carpet area to protest against the decision by Rome Mayor Gianni Alemanno to close buildings occupied by squatters during Rome's film festival yesterday.

Republicans spent $150K on hockey mom's look

POLITICS Dressing up the self-styled hockey mom cost the Republican National Committee more than $150,000.

Small potatoes in a big election, Republican officials said, after trips to Saks Fifth Avenue in New York and St. Louis and Neiman Marcus in Minneapolis for Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin were uncovered by politico.com, the U.S. political website.

Sarah Palin

That may be, but the revelation capped a tough 24 hours for a prospective vice-president.

Not only does the shopping spree not square with a candidate seeking the Wal-Mart vote, Palin flubbed a question from a third-grader, posed by a Colorado television reporter, on the role of the vice-president.

There were published reports that Palin charged Alaska taxpayers more than $21,000 for airfare and hotel accommodation so her children could travel with her to events, including some to which they were not invited. The reports said she amended expense statements to indicate the children were on official business. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Costs of politics

Some of Palin's purchases

- $75,062.63 — Two shopping trips to Neiman Marcus in Minneapolis
- $49,425.74 — Saks Fifth Avenue in St. Louis and New York
- $9,447.71 — Total of three payments to Macy's in Minneapolis
- $5,102.71 — Payment to Bloomingdale's New York
- $4,902.45 — Payment to Atelier, a high-class shopping destination for men

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News in brief

CANCER A broad analysis of genes has turned up 26 mutations linked with the most common form of lung cancer, several of which play a role in other cancers as well, researchers said yesterday.

STEM CELLS Researchers have discovered stem cells in the prostates of mice and grown complete prostates from them, but said they want to use the findings to search for better treatments for prostate cancer. The team at California-based Genentech Inc. said human beings have similar stem cells. REUTERS

French fine food producers not fearing economic slide

FOOD The financial crisis may be a time to tighten belts, but the food-centric French are unlikely to go on a diet just yet, producers say.

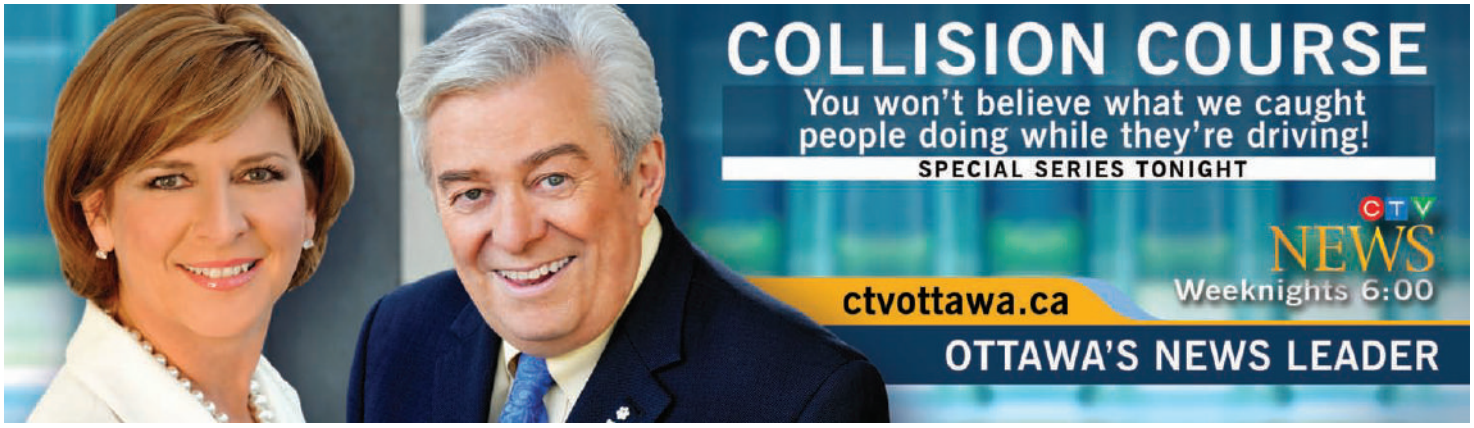
Top-end brands are betting that consumers will eye gourmet food products as a relatively cheap source of pleasure.

"Food products cost less than handbags and could be a haven for people who want to indulge themselves," Claudie Le Souder, head of communication at French luxury food maker Fauchon, said at the international food show SIAL, which was held in Paris.

While fine food producers remain upbeat, middle-market players may need to rethink their strategy experts. REUTERS

Costs

- The average grocery basket amounts to 30 euros in France, far above Britain (21 euros), Spain (18 euros) and Germany (12 euros).



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Comment & Views

Comment

Critical time for Liberals

Home&Abroad

Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

Conventional wisdom holds that the Liberal Party of Canada, post-election, will sink into a long season of despair, division and decline. Not so fast.

It won't help that the proud Stéphane Dion — who did not deserve the character assassination he has stoically endured — will stay on until a leadership convention. It means he will be hit by friendly fire as his successors rush to distance themselves from his leadership and his losing policies, such as the Green Shift.

But the good news for the Liberals is that they have strong contenders, as strong as they have had since 1968, when they chose Pierre Trudeau, or since 1984, when they chose John Turner.

Unlike the coronations of 1990 and 2003, which produced Jean Chrétien and Paul Martin on the first ballot, this contest will be more open.

For a party desperate to renew itself, this is critical. The more candidates, the broader the process. For what this can mean for democracy, see Barack Obama.

This time, the field will be broader and deeper than in 2006. That's because the leading contenders are stronger.

Michael Ignatieff, the front-runner last time, has sat in Parliament since February 2006. As deputy leader, he has performed with style and eloquence. If the rap against him was political inexperience, it is no longer.

Bob Rae, his rival, has run and won a seat as a Liberal. The rap against him is that he was a New Democrat who was an ineffective premier of deficit-ridden Ontario. He cannot erase his past — the Conservatives won't let him — but he will run as someone who is as effective in opposition as in power.

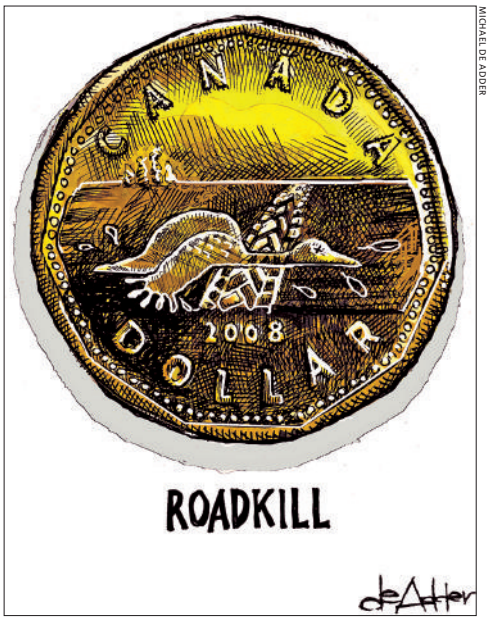
John Manley and Frank McKenna, should they run, bring the quality of elder statesmen, yet are young enough to renew the party. Both have name recognition and can raise money.

All are bilingual, experienced, serious players. Stephen Harper, take note.

The rest of the field? Gerard Kennedy and Martha Hall Findlay may run again, though other than having been elected, neither appears stronger than two years ago. Dominique LeBlanc may run, and so might Denis Coderre, but it's not a francophone's turn this time.

Of course, the Liberal malaise runs deeper than leadership. They need money, ideas and reorganization. Contrary to popular belief, though, this party is not over.

Andrew Cohen, a professor and journalist, is the author of Extraordinary Canadians: Lester B. Pearson.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Mr. PM: More women needed in cabinet

By DONNA DASKO

With modest gains in last week's federal election, women finally shattered the glass ceiling (or is that floor?) of 21 per cent set during the previous three elections.

But this isn't exactly a breakthrough — our new Parliament is still only 22 per cent female, with 68 women elected, up from 64 in 2006. Canada now moves from the 51st country in the world for female representation to around 46th, while countries such as Sweden, Argentina, Spain, Rwanda and 41 other countries have more women in their national parliaments.

The results were also disappointing considering more women than ever were running — comprising 29 per cent of all candidates — but weren't winning. The Liberals ran the most women (113), but elected just 18, while the Conservatives ran just 60 women, of which 23 were elected. The New Democrats ran 104 women and elected 12, while the Bloc Québécois ran 75 and elected 15. Following a familiar pattern that we have often seen, many women were nominated in "unwinnable" ridings where their parties did poorly in the past.

Donna Dasko

Still, the parties did try harder and we see signs of growing awareness among the public and the media that we need more women in elected office.

With 23 women in his new caucus, Prime Minister Stephen Harper can boast the largest contingent of female MPs — a remarkable feat considering his and his Conservative party's past problems in attracting female voters.

Harper has an opportunity to make history — and to help compensate for the disappointing overall election result for women — by appointing substantial numbers of women to his cabinet and into prominent roles and major portfolios.

In doing so, he will help his own future prospects — and give voice and visibility to half the population.

Donna Dasko, PhD, is senior vice-president of the polling firm Environics Research Group Limited. She is a founder and national vice-chair of Equal Voice, a multi-partisan organization dedicated to electing more women to Canada's Parliament and provincial legislatures.

METRO Ottawa

130 Slater Street, Suite 300
Ottawa, ON K1P 6E2
Tel: 613-236-5058
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Fax: 1-866-253-2024

Advertising: 613-236-5058
adinfoottawa@metronews.ca
Distribution inquiries:
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metro_inquiries@metronews.ca
ottawaletters@metronews.ca

Local:
Publisher, C. Dave Kruse
Managing Editor, Derek Gordanier
derek.gordanier@metronews.ca
Marketing Manager, Ian Clark
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National:
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By the numbers

According to Statistics Canada, there are more than 70 small businesses for every 1,000 people across the country. NEWS CANADA

Small Business

Software saves time

Accounting software can print cheques, create invoices, track expenses and set due-date reminders to keep track of money coming in and out. A survey of small business owners showed 80 per cent of users save 10 hours a month by using software. NEWS CANADA

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Maternity leave 'non-existent' for owners

Tricia Mumby, 35, one of four co-owners of Hamilton-based Mabel's Labels (mabel.ca), fit her maternity leave into exactly 10 days — the time between when she gave birth, and when one of her other co-partners did. "I got the call — she had her baby, and my mat leave was over!"

Welcome to the world of the "non-existent" maternity leave for small business owners, who aren't eligible for benefits themselves, and can't often take leave, since they can neither afford to be without their own salary or let the business slide. However, they're obliged to work around staff leaves and keep their jobs open for their return, no matter how key those positions are to the company's success.

Lee-Anne Arkell, founder of Peekaboo Child Care Centres (peekabookid.com), which has 17 owner-operated and franchised facilities in southern Ontario, knows the challenges of losing staff to maternity leave.

Arkell founded the operation in 1999 because she had difficulty finding childcare so she could return to her job at Honeywell after her first child was born in 1997.

She now employs more than 500 people, 90 per cent of whom are under 30. All but five are female.

Arkell, who had her second child after she founded the company — "I had her on a Saturday and went back to work on the Tuesday," she says — is feeling the stress of maternity leaves, mostly in her management team.

"Knowing in the future we would have managers on leave, and knowing it would only get worse," the company created assistant supervisor positions at every centre, Arkell said.

Small business owners aren't eligible for income replacement benefits while on maternity leave, so they return to work almost immediately after the birth of their child.

"We do a lot of training so they're ready to take over for the year while my supervisors are on mat leave."

And because so many staff aren't ready to come back after one year, Peekaboo will hold their jobs for a second year, to encourage them to come back when they're ready, rather than to go somewhere else down the road. Otherwise, all the "work you've put into training staff is gone," says Arkell.

That said, small business owners could benefit from government programming to assist in staff training, she says. "There's nothing to help people get training for management staff."

Government assistance for small businesses whose staff are on maternity, sick, or elder care leave is something the Canadian Federation of Independent Business has been demanding for years, says the group's president, Catherine Swift.

"Everyone supports people being able to take care of their babies, but can't you give some relief somewhere else?" she says she's asked Ottawa.

"Help them bring someone else in for a year, or give them a holiday on paying Employment Insurance premiums. Show an olive branch," she's urged.

"So far," she says, "there's been nothing, of course."

The biggest challenge small businesses have around maternity leave, she says, is that they have fewer staff to fill in when others are on leave.

Women who are operating small businesses, like Mumby and Arkell, aren't eligible, Swift notes.

"There's no such thing as a mat leave when it's a small business and you're so involved in management," says Mumby.

"A small business is another baby," she says. "You don't want to miss its first years any more than your child's." METRO NEWS SERVICES

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In a recent survey of Canadian small business owners, cash flow and rising fuel costs were their main concerns heading into 2009.

Fuel costs a concern for 2009

Rising fuel costs and managing growth and cash flow amid a global economic slowdown are the main concerns of small business owners across Canada heading into 2009, according to a survey released last week.

The survey by TD Canada Trust, a unit of Toronto-Dominion Bank, polled 1,000 small business owners from Sept. 4 to Sept. 8 and found that 23 per cent anticipate cash flow as being their biggest concern heading into 2009.

Managing growth was cited as the next biggest concern by 20 per cent of those surveyed, while 17 per cent said rising fuel costs would be their biggest challenge in 2009.

"Twenty-three per cent anticipate cash flow as being their biggest concern heading into 2009."

A report by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business said co-ordinated actions by governments around the world to backstop the banking system have had a positive effect on Canada's small business sector.

But the report said that even though there is an improved outlook, the number of businesses that have reported problems getting bank financing rose to 28 per cent for the week of Oct. 14, compared with 26 per cent the previous week.

The survey by the CFIB, a small business organization that is running the survey on a weekly basis for six weeks, is based on 639 business owners who responded between Oct. 14 and Oct 15.

A quarter of the small business owners surveyed by TD said they have had solid growth or their best year yet in 2008 despite turbulent market conditions and concerns about a slowdown in the U.S. economy sapping demand for Canadian exports.

Fifty per cent of the respondents said they did as well as they expected in 2008, while 23 per cent said they did not. REUTERS

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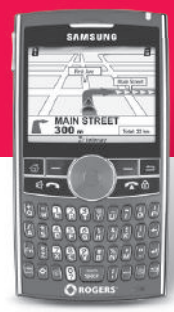

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AT&T prices BlackBerry Bold at $299
AT&T said it will sell Research in Motion's BlackBerry Bold for $299 on a two-year contract, or 50 per cent more than it charges for Apple's iPhone, in a move that will target executives over consumers. Sales will begin Nov. 4. REUTERS

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Rate cut predicted as retail sales slip

Canadian retail sales dropped for the first time in six months in August, giving weight to analysts' predictions that the Bank of Canada will cut interest rates again this year to stimulate the economy amid the global crisis.

Statistics Canada said yesterday that retail sales slipped by 0.3 per cent from July due to lower sales in the automotive sector, worse than expectations of a 0.2 per cent fall.

Economists at Scotia Capital saw reason for the Bank of Canada to cut the interest rate again, as "Canadian consumers clearly lost their resilience even before the peak credit crunch hit."

The central bank cut its key interest rate on Tuesday by a quarter point to 2.25 per cent, and said it would likely have to ease credit further. The next scheduled rate announcement date is Dec. 9.

The S&P/TSX index dropped nearly 6 per cent yesterday, while the Canadian dollar sagged to a three-year low against the greenback, pressured by sliding commodity prices. REUTERS

Quebecor network to cost up to $1B

WIRELESS Media and publishing group Quebecor Inc. said it will spend up to $1 billion over four years to roll out its wireless network to compete against Canada's Big Three mobile providers.

The company said its new high-speed packet access network, running on Nokia equipment, should be up and running in 12 to 18 months. REUTERS

In brief

TAKEOVER Canadian cheesemaker Saputo Inc. said it plans to buy the Nielson Dairy division of George Weston Ltd. for $465 million, to boost its presence in the Ontario fluid milk market.

TRENDS Airfares could decrease in North America next year, and likely declines in occupancy rates will keep hotel room rate increases in check, American Express predicted in its 2009 travel forecast. REUTERS

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Cornett on to final
Ottawa's Samantha Cornett has advanced to the final at Junior Pan American squash championships METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

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Panthers come out firing

NHL RESULT

Panthers 3 Senators 1

VS

MIKE BEASLEY
for Metro Ottawa

Karlis Skrastins, left, and Jarkko Ruutu battle for the puck in the third period last night.

THE SKINNY: Rookie Florida Panthers head coach Peter DeBoer picked up his first career win on Canadian soil in the Nation's Capital over Senators bench boss Craig Hartsburg his long-time nemesis from the Ontario Hockey league days.

THE QUOTE: **"We didn't have a great start and couldn't get the puck out of our own end. It ended up costing us the game,"** said Hartsburg.

THE UNUSUAL: After one period of play the Senators registered only three shots on Florida goaltender Craig Anderson but finished the game with 42.

THE RUMBLING: Scotiabank Place fans got on Senators G Martin Gerber early in the first period after giving up two goals less than a minute apart before the game was six minutes old.

THE NEXT GAME: The Senators and Anaheim Ducks square off tomorrow night at Scotiabank Place for the first time since the two teams met in the 2007 Stanley Cup final.

Sens prepared for tough times ahead

TheHockeyNews

It certainly won't help Ottawa Senators fans who want Jason Spezza to play more consistently or Filip Kuba to hit more, but they can take some solace in the fact that their team has done a good job of insulating itself from the tough economic times that lay ahead.

At least for the rest of this season. In an interview for the Nov. 3 edition of The Hockey News, Senators president-CEO Roy Mlakar revealed that the Senators bought enough American dollars about a year ago to fund their payroll for the rest of this season. What does that mean? Well, you'll recall the Canadian dollar was trading well above par over the American greenback a year ago, a far cry from yesterday when it fell below the 80-cent mark. Those who bought up American dollars then got them at a bargain and since players are paid in U.S. funds, the Senators are paying their players this season with American dollars that aren't costing them a fortune.

It's called "hedging" and the Canadian teams have to do it all the time. The Edmonton Oilers are hedged through January, while the Calgary Flames are not. The fact that the Senators are puts them in a better position to absorb the body blows of a faltering economy.

"The story from Ottawa is not all doom and gloom," Mlakar told THN. "We're locked in." Now it becomes a question of whether or not the Senators, and other Canadian teams, start investing in Canadian dollars, hedging their bets that the experts who say the dip in the loonie is temporary and will rebound are right.

The thinking is that Canada's resource-based economy insulates it from disaster because those things are in demand around the world, particularly in China and India, which are both big consumers at the moment.

No matter what, though, Mlakar acknowledges that a significant and long-term downturn will hurt the Senators and everyone else in the NHL. That includes the players, whose salaries are tied directly into league revenues.

"Sport has always had a tradition of being relatively immune to recessionary periods," Mlakar told THN. "I'm not so sure this time. It's pretty bad out there."

The Hockey News thn.com

Phillies, Rays battle in Game 1

The Rays' Akinori Iwamura is forced out at second by Chase Utley in Game 1 of the World Series last night. For a complete game report, log onto www.metronews.ca/sports.

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Warming up

The hottest trend to spill over from the World Cup is heated gear bags. The concept is simple: Place boots, gloves and socks in an insulated bag with a low heat source to warm the contents. Starting the day with warm boots helps keep feet warm the whole day. Prices range from $139 to $169. Go to hotgearbag.com for more. **SKI CANADA**

Ski & Snowboard PREVIEW

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Dos and don'ts

Below are ski bindings dos and don'ts, by Martin Olson, technical editor at Ski Canada:

- Do make sure boots are absolutely clean before stepping in.
- Don't boot your bindings like a football before slamming the boot in.
- Do clean bindings with water — solvents will dissolve factory-installed lubricants that also serve as rust protection.
- Don't release your binding with your ski. All heelpieces have an indentation so that you can release by pushing down with your pole.
- Do let a shop pro adjust your bindings the first time.
- Don't transport skis unprotected on your car roof. Corrosion from road salt and grit can ruin expensive bindings as well as make their function suspect.

SKI CANADA

Take lessons, expert says

TAGHREED SAADEH
for Metro Canada

Snowboarding is a great way to enjoy the mountains and get some exercise, but it can be frustrating if you don't learn the proper techniques.

That's why Anthony Crute, owner/operations manager of Pro Ride Snowboard Camps, recommends getting a lesson from your local snowboard school. "You will learn quicker than doing it on your own, have more success and less chance of injury," he says.

"The learning curve for snowboarding is quite quick, so in no time you can be making turns down easy trails on your local ski hill," he adds.

"Do not give up after one day," he says. "Plan to take three to four half-day lessons and then practice what you have learned."

If you can afford it, a private lesson is best, says Crute, but otherwise, a group lesson is still a better option than teaching yourself.

Snowboarding can be frustrating if you don't learn the proper techniques, says Anthony Crute of Pro Ride Snowboard Camps.

"Choose your lesson days carefully," he says. "Watch the weather and look for a day with fresh snow or warm slushy conditions.

"If you ski, then don't learn to snowboard on a crappy ski day, as it will not be conducive to learning to snowboard," he says. "Avoid icy days."

Most importantly, Crute says, is "Relax and have fun."

Crute says beginners should dress warmly and wear protective equipment, such as padded shorts, wrist guards and a helmet. Riding clothing is functional, loose-fitting, layered, funky and waterproof.

"Make sure you rent high-performance snowboard gear when you learn as it is better than the basic rental gear," he says.

As snowboarding requires strength, flexibility, muscular endurance and balance, exercise is key to being ready to hit the slopes.

"To get ready for the winter, and to keep you in shape across the winter, you will want to look at training two to three times a week with one day's rest in between each session," he says. "The goal here is to start to build your endurance and strength and make sure that you work out all of the major muscle groups."

For more information, visit pro-ride.com.

From Ski Canada
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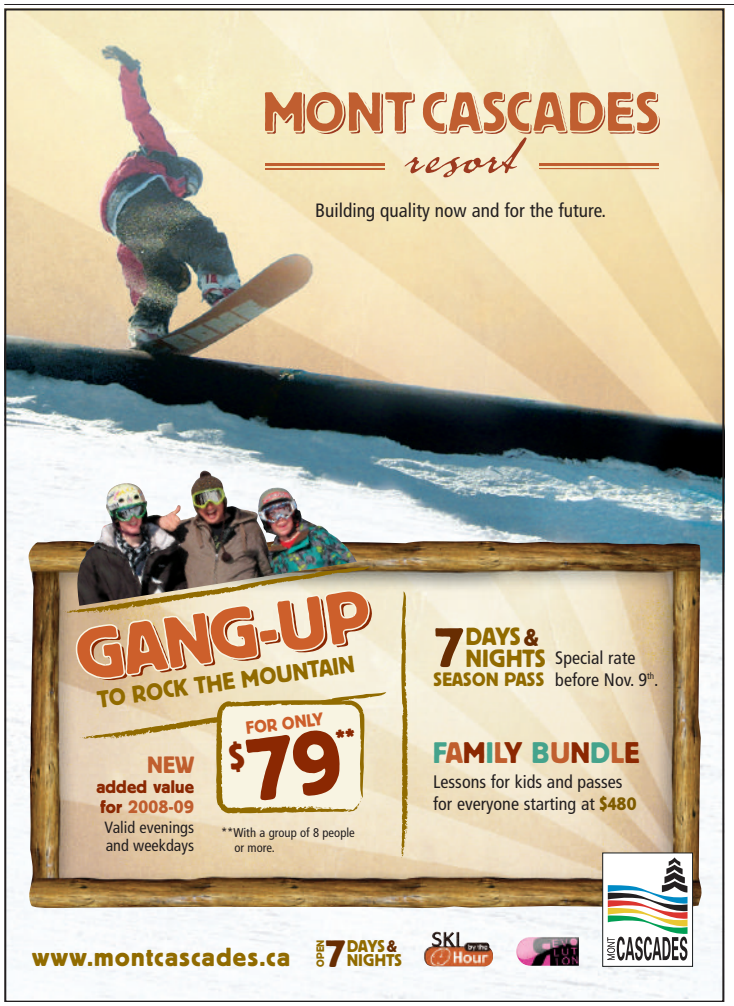
What kind of skier are you?

- **Aspiring skiers** are those who are at the beginning of the learning process. They snowplow often, usually ski quite slowly, and are still gaining experience with snow texture and choosing a line down the slope. Aspiring skiers prefer Green slopes and may do rudimentary parallel turns in ideal conditions.
- **Intermediate skiers** are well on their way to skiing the whole mountain. They have overcome most fears of speed and can turn at will on Green and Blue slopes. Intermediates usually ski parallel except when their confidence is shaken. Intermediates enjoy skis that have good stability, a big sweet spot and versatility.
- **Advanced skiers** travel faster and can carve on groomed conditions. They have the confidence to ski almost any pitch, including off-piste slopes. Their repertoire of ski experience is well developed to include all snow and slope conditions. They can adjust technique to suit prevailing conditions, although they don't always do it with style. Advanced skiers can enjoy good slalom and carving skis and have fun off-piste.
- **Expert skiers** have well-refined technical skills such as pressure control, enabling them to maximize carving and efficiency. They perform with ease in difficult conditions. They sense differences in ski and snow behaviour and modify technique on the fly.

Ski Canada is available on newsstands now. Check out their 2009 Buyer's Guide, which features product news, highlights and more.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Tech Now

To India

Cisco opens a new 5,000-employee centre in Bangalore, India. It's a billon-dollar investment in India's low-cost workers and their rising level of education and innovation. METRO NEWS SERVICES

A personal assistant for a buck a day

We have all heard about the "hurry-up" lifestyle of the digital age and the big question is: How can I keep up?

Well, India is becoming home to a growing number of firms that, for a fee, are willing to be your personal assistant. It's one more phone/Internet-based business being outsourced to India.

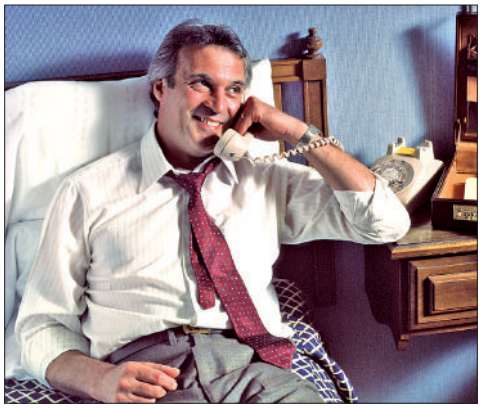
Getfriday.com is one of the new companies. Their website highlights a few of the normal tasks they handle:

- Appointments for repair people, paying utility bills, travel planning;
- Online purchases;
- Website maintenance;
- Handling comments for online discussions.

And some of the more offbeat services:

- Daily wake up calls with weather report and a reminder to exercise and make your bed;
- Reminding client not to speed and pay parking fines;
- Apologizing and sending flowers and cards;
- Reading bedtime stories to a young child on phone.

Asksunday.com is a U.S.-based firm, but they use staff based in India. The argument is made by time-management experts that you have to decide what tasks are worth your time and which can be outsourced for as little as a dollar a day. Technology allows for this kind of service to take place and you can use it to your advantage. Get Friday even offers a free seven-day trial. Tasksevery day is another Indian firm. Marketing messages often focus on telling customers that they can get a better life with a personal assistant. The companies say they won't break the law for you and may refuse requests they are uncomfortable with tackling. Given that they are on the other side of the world, don't look for them to pick up your laundry. If it can't be done online or by phone, strike it off your list.



Getfriday.com has a service that gives you daily wake up calls with a weather report and a reminder to exercise and make your bed.

There are local personal assistant companies in the Ottawa region offering much more in the way of services but also higher rates. Now you have to decide: Is this something for me?

I know, I have added one more thing to your personal "to-do" list.

PAUL'S WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

theoworlds.com/halloween

Looking for some Halloween games with the kids or need to kill some time while sharpening your virtual pumpkin-carving skills? Well, this is the site. Have fun!

This Sunday, one of the stories on Tech Now will be a look at the public postings of disturbed individuals on the web. Don't forget to check our website at ctvottawa.ca.

Be sure to watch Tech Now this Sunday as part of the CTV NEWS at 6 p.m.

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We're fans of Home Depot's EcoOptions magazine, which is full of DIY ideas for greening your home. You can read the new issue online at *homedepot.ca* (click on "eFlyer").

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The great garage cleanup

HomeScape

Sylvia Putz

Last week I ventured into the world of high-style, customizable garages, replete with everything from colourful PVC-tile flooring and mix-and match cabinets to sofas and flat-screen TVs.

But even if most of us could shell out the steep prices those kind of makeovers command, we'd have a more basic problem to deal with first — our garages are so crammed that seeing even a square inch of custom flooring would be a challenge.

Just how bad can your garage get? Pretty bad, says Ron Binder, co-owner of OnWall Solutions, *onwallsolutions.com*, a Toronto-based company that specializes in garage storage.

"The biggest problem I've seen with garages is that there is so much junk piled inside that the homeowner can no longer park the car," he says, adding he encounters this kind of situation all the time, with all kinds of people.

Phew! That's a relief, because I thought I was abnormal. But still, scraping ice off the windshield — when I could be parked in my nice warm garage — is kind of annoying.

So I decided to start a major clean-up, and boy, did I have a lot of stuff. And since we're speaking of stuff, let's admit for once and for all that it is the dark heart of the problem when it comes to garages and organization.

Job number one is offloading. This means taking inventory of what you have and deciding what you no longer need.

I'll admit to feeling a great sense of satisfaction as I amassed a huge pile of outgoing items, some of it destined for the trash and other stuff for a local charity.

The hardest part of the job was actually negotiating with my husband, who has a hard time getting rid of stuff that I would turf in a minute.

But, all turned out well. After a series of "This is junk. No, it isn't" conversations, we eventually did reach an agreement, and made an amicable trip down to the Sally Ann.

During the inventory, I also noticed odd items that really didn't belong in the garage — for me, these were things better stored in the house.

These are usually the items that are retrieved for parties or family gatherings once a year (the Christmas dishes and big serving platters, for instance), accompanied by frustrated cursing and the clattering of dislodged items on the garage floor.

For all you scientific types out there, the next part of the clean-up involves categorizing and sorting the stuff that remains. For example, all the sporting goods went into one pile, all the gardening things in another, and so on.

But you also need to tag items, since your wonderful organizing efforts will mean squat if your family is not aware of how you decided to store things.

Sturdy stick-on tags or pieces of coloured hockey tape do the job nicely. Try tagging items in each category with a particular colour — say, green for gardening paraphernalia and red for sporting and recreational items.

Also tag the container or shelf, so the family knows where this family of items must go. You can even provide a map and tack it in a prominent place if folks need a visual reminder.

And then you can stand back and see just how good your garage can get.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in home decor and design. She has written extensively for the TV show Arresting Design.

What goes where

Gardening equipment:

- Store near the door to the garden. A rolling garden tool organizer is very useful, and a lockable cabinet for storing fertilizers and other hazardous chemicals is a must, especially if kids are about. Long-handled tools can go on hooks or in a barrel.

Sporting goods:

- Hang hockey bags from hooks. Ventilated storage (i.e. wire bins or extra hooks) let stinky equipment dry.
- Store snowboards and skiis overhead. Balls and other small pieces of equipment should live in a bin. Light pool or swimming equipment can go in overhead nets or mesh.
- Hang bikes from a wall, but put them close to an exit so the car doesn't get scratched while they're maneuvered in and out. Kids should be able to get their bikes themselves.

Decorations:

- Keep holiday items out of the way in bins or in net bags hung from the ceiling.

DIY:

- Automotive equipment, power tools and paints or solvents often live at the head of the garage on shelves or in cabinets; lockable storage for dangerous items is again key.
- Ladders do well overhead. Wheelbarrows and other big equipment need a dedicated space so they're accessible but out of the way.

Decorations:

- Save space for current items. In winter you'll want snow shovels handy, but in summer they can go on a back wall.
- Give yourself a weekend for cleanup, so half-organized items aren't sitting in your driveway for weeks. And avoid doing the job on a rainy or snowy cold day.

WWW.BULB.COM

Naturalized daffodils and muscari bloom year after year.

A bulb-planting primer

Following are tips from the Netherlands Flower Bulb Information Center on planting naturalized bulbs that will come back for years of enjoyment:

Pointy end up

- All bulbs have a top and a bottom, called the basal plate. The pointier end is generally the top. Of course with some small bulbs it's not always easy to tell. For planting, the general rule is "plant the point end up."

The other rule, not quite so catchy, is "basal plate down." It's not too hard to find this flat, usually darker basal plate — it's the part on the bottom of the bulb from which the roots will sprout.

If you're unsure, plant the bulb sideways. Even if you make a mistake, take heart. Bulbs will effectively right themselves underground as their roots tend to pull them into the proper growing position.

Feed the bulbs

- Naturalized and perennialized bulbs need food to recharge for the next season's bloom.
- For the first season, either work a good organic compost or well-rotted cow manure into the soil when planting and also "top-dress" or mulch with this material. Or, add compost or peat to the soil for drainage and top-dress with a 9-9-6 NPK slow release or an 8-8-8 or 10-10-10 NPK, fast-release soluble fertilizer (about one tablespoon per square foot).
- What you do next spring depends on what you did in the fall. If you used a slow release method, such as the cow manure or the slow-release NPK, don't do anything. If you used a fast-release fertilizer to support fall rooting, apply a nitrogen-rich fast-release NPK fertilizer in the spring just as the shoots first emerge from the soil, or about six weeks prior to bloom. (Fertilizing at bloom or after bloom can lead to disease issues.)

Whatever method you choose, each fall, fertilize again by your method of choice. Frankly, the easiest approach is a once-annual fall application of timed-release bulb food.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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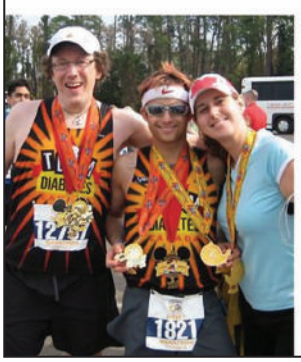

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Slow cooking tips

Dried beans and soups are also good candidates for slow cookers. By all means, use a cookbook as a reference for tips and recipes to get you started. Check out the selection at your local library or ask friends. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

"A barbecue sauce with chipotles gives a nice smoky flavour. If you have smoked paprika, try that."

Barb Holland/for Metro Canada

Say what?

Boneless pork shoulder is sometimes called Boston butt.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Tender, loving cooking

À la carte

Barb Holland
Metro Food Writer

Slow cookers are nice to come home to — and the ideal appliance for braising (cooking low and slow in liquid) less tender but flavourful cuts of meat. A pork shoulder roast is a perfect case in point — slow cooking tenderizes the meat such that it shreds easily, aha — pulled pork.

This recipe requires a little planning to make it at least a day ahead. I often let the slow cooker cook it overnight, then cool and refrigerate it during the day. The fat rises to the top and hardens when chilled, making it easy to remove. Serve on onion buns with coleslaw.

While slow cooker cookbooks would have you cooking everything in the slow cooker, in my opinion, it is best for braising less tender cuts of meat. So stews, chili, pot roasts and lamb shanks are ideal for the slow cooker — and, of course, a deliciously soft pulled pork sandwich.

Pulled Pork

An easy meal that is popular with kids and adults alike (and makes great leftovers). Makes 6 servings.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 lb (1 kg) boneless pork shoulder roast, remove any excess fat
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) prepared mustard
- 6 soft buns and coleslaw

Dry Rub:

- 1 tbsp (15 mL) each granulated sugar and paprika
- 1-1/2 tsp (7 mL) each brown sugar, ground cumin, chili powder and black pepper
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) each salt and cayenne
- 2 onions, halved and thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) smoky barbecue sauce

METHOD:

Spread mustard over pork. Make rub mixture by combing sugar, paprika, brown sugar, cumin, chili powder, pepper, salt and cayenne. Pat evenly over pork. Place in slow cooker, top with onions and barbecue sauce. Cook, covered on LOW for 8 to 10 hours or until very tender.

Transfer pork to a cutting board and cool slightly. Using two forks, shred meat, discarding any fat. Cool, then cover and refrigerate. Put the cooking liquid in a tall bowl, cool then refrigerate to solidify fat. Remove fat and transfer liquid to a saucepan. Bring to a boil and cook to reduce and thicken it. (Or blend a little cornstarch with cold water, whisk into cooking liquid and bring to a boil, whisking constantly, until thickened into a sauce.) Add meat to sauce and heat until warmed though. Serve on buns.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

This recipe appears in The Main: Recipes by Anthony Sedlak.

The Main selection

The Main: Recipes cookbook brings together chef Anthony Sedlak's creations from his hit Food Network show The Main. The Main airs weeknights at 7 p.m. ET on the Food Network.

Crab Cakes

For recipes for Grilled Artichokes, Tomato Salsa with Caper mayonnaise to accompany these crab cakes, visit metronews.ca.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tbsp olive oil, divided
- ½ medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 stalk celery, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp white wine
- 1 ½ lbs lump crab meat, drained and picked over
- 1 Granny Smith apple, peeled and grated
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- ¼ cup sour cream
- ¼ cup finely chopped chives
- 2 tbsp finely chopped tarragon
- ½ tsp cayenne
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 cup breadcrumbs, divided

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 375 F.

In a skillet, heat 1 tbsp olive oil over low heat. Add onions and celery and cook gently for 3-4 minutes, or until vegetables are soft and translucent.

Add white wine and cook slowly over medium heat, covered, until vegetables are tender. Remove from heat and let mixture cool. In a large bowl, mix crabmeat, apple, mayonnaise, sour cream, chives, tarragon, cayenne and egg yolk. Add ⅓ cup of breadcrumbs. Add onion and celery mixture and combine. Season with salt and pepper. If mixture does not hold together, add more breadcrumbs.

Place remaining ⅔ cup of breadcrumbs into a large shallow dish. Divide crab mixture into 8 portions. Form crab cakes into 2 inch rounds with 1 inch thickness. Dip the top and bottom of each crab cake into breadcrumbs. Set aside on a baking tray.

In a non-stick pan, heat remaining 1 tbsp of oil over medium high heat. Add four crab cakes and cook for 2-3 minutes, or until golden brown. Flip crab cakes and sear another one minute. Transfer crab cakes to baking sheet. Repeat with remaining cakes.

Place baking sheet in preheated oven, and bake for 6-7 minutes, or until heated through.

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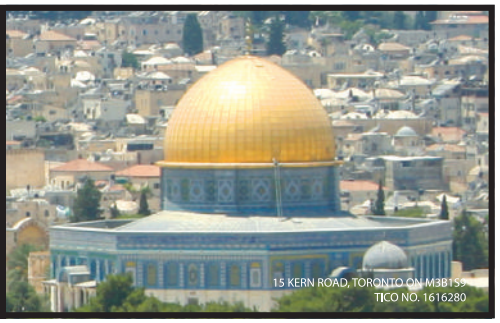

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Manhattan inspires new fragrance
Elizabeth Arden recently launched 5th avenue Nights, inspired by the streets of Manhattan. It is a modern floral oriental that captures the glamour and excitement of city nights. Available at The Bay and Sears, $40 for 30 ml. METRO NEWS SERVICE

Style

Mango collection

The fall/winter limited-edition Mango collection is in stores now. Designed by actress sisters Monica, left, and Penelope Cruz, the lineup features evening wear and some vintage-inspired styles. Mango clothing can also be purchased at *mangoshop.com*. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

The layered necklace

Layered
Designer: Dotted Loop
Shop: Briers
(604-730-0379)

Charming
Designer: Toodle Bunny
Shop: Barefoot Contessa
Address: Various Locations
toodlebunny.com

Mixed
Designer: Melissa Clemente
Shop: Various Locations
Address: Various Locations
melissaclementedesigns.com

Extra Protection
Designer: American Eagle
Shop: American Eagle
Address: Various Locations
ae.com

Sporty
Designer: Bolle
Shop: Various Locations
Address: Various Locations
bollé.com

Classic
Designer: D&G
Shop: Sunglass Hut
Address: Various Locations
sunglasshut.com

necklaces

This season's necklaces are all about layered chains, little charms and mixed metals. The necklace by designer Melissa Clemente is an excellent example of the look for this season. Try these necklaces on top of a plain white T-shirt or dress and I guarantee it will look polished and pulled together.

sunglasses

Sometimes we forget that we need protection from the sun during the fall and winter months. Steer clear from sun damage around the eyes with sunglasses that wrap around and have thicker stems that protect you from all sides.

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.

Style File

Kim Elbo
kim.elbo@metronews.ca

ask kim

I always hear about sample sales but never know when and where they are. Is there a site I could look at that has listings of sample sales?

Sample sales are one of the best places to look for designer clothing at almost cost prices. Check out national websites like *styledemocracy.com* or *ilovesamplesalesonline.com* and remember to always arrive early to ensure first pick on sizes and styles.

E-mail your style questions to *kim.elbo@metronews. ca.*

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CHACE CRAWFORD
JAKE WEBER
ANNALYNNE McCORD
SHANNON WOODWARD
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Subject to Classification. Entries must be received by 11:59pm Oct. 27, 2008, the Contest Closing Date. Telephone calls must be received by 11:59pm, the Contest Closing Date. Open to residents of Ontario and Quebec of the age of majority. A random draw will be held at 10am Oct. 29, 2008 in Ottawa, Ontario. The odds of winning depend on the total number of entries received. Approximate value of a double pass is $25. No purchase necessary. Winners must correctly answer a mathematical skill-testing questions without assistance of any kind.
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Watts in talks to play outspoken teacher

Actress Naomi Watts is set to play Nobel Prize winner and controversial peace campaigner Jody Williams in a new biopic. Watts is in talks to take on the role of the outspoken teacher who became known for her work on the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. IMDB.COM

Entertainment

More Dexter

Showtime has picked up Dexter (starring Michael C. Hall) for two more seasons. Seasons 4 and 5 will consist of 12 episodes each, with production to start this spring in Los Angeles. TVGUIDE.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●●○ EXCELLENT; ●●●○○ GOOD; ●●○○○ FAIR; ●○○○○ POOR

Musical's senior year

STEVE VEALE
for Metro Canada

To paraphrase Roger Daltry: The kids are still all right.

"We have the best fans in the world," said Olesya Rulin, who has appeared in all three of Disney's High School Musical movies. "It's just been mind blowing to be a part of all this."

Mind blowing is a good way to describe the song-and-dance movie sensation that has captivated every teen and preteen in North America. The saga of the thespian students attending Albuquerque's Eastside High continues tomorrow when Disney rolls out the third entry in the series.

Along with returning stars like Rulin — who plays Kelsi Nielsen — High School Musical 3: Senior Year will feature new members of the student body: played by Justin Martin and Matt Prokop.

Olesya Rulin, far left, in High School Musical 3 with fellow actresses KayCee Stroh, Britt Stewart, Vanessa Hudgens, Monique Coleman.

"We were welcomed by the regulars right away," said 18-year-old Martin, who plays Donny Dion. "The first day we all ended up playing Rock Band (on the computer) and watching movies in Ashley's (Tisdale) trailer."

"It really is like an HSM family," added Prokop. The cast had a mere five-week rehearsal schedule, and a very economic 44-day shoot, to pull High School Musical 3 together.

"That's less than half of a regular film musical," said director Kenny Ortega. "We could accomplish that because the kids were so well versed in the production."

Still, it's obvious from the three actors' laughter that they had a terrific time together. All three got longboards and followed series star Zac Efron while he skateboarded around the set. "We did get in trouble for that," admitted Prokop. "After all, if Zac sprained an ankle he wouldn't be able to do his dance numbers."

Needless to say, the boards were put in storage until shooting was wrapped. Being forced into more sedentary pastimes, the cast got a vinyl kiddie pool, pulled up some lawn chairs, soaked their feet after labourous dance numbers, and enjoyed the Utah heat — where filming took place.

AC/DC

Album: Black Ice
Label: Columbia/Sony BMG
Rating: ●●●○○

ONE FORMULA DRIVES this five-member Aussie institution — rock 'n' roll. Want proof? Three songs make reference to it; one more says they're 'rocking.' Really. But would you honestly expect, 35 years on, that schoolboy-dressing blues-metal riffmeister Angus Young et al would dare reinvent themselves as power balladeers or into techno remixes or sappy country-pop? That said, this first new AC/DC effort in eight years, er, rocks with more the energy of 1995's Ballbreaker than 1980's Back In Black, lacking many of Young's hook-laden intros, filled instead with some very ZZ Top-meets-CCR swampy rhythms.

Ian Nathanson/for Metro Canada

Sebastien Grainger

Album: Sebastien Grainger & The Mountains
Label: Outside
Rating: ●●●●○

SEBASTIEN GRAINGER PULLS himself out of the crater left by Death From Above 1979 for his first full-length solo effort. Grainger discovers that he doesn't have to use a rubber mallet to drive home his point. There's surprisingly strong melody behind the bending walls of roughly textured rock. And he earns extra points for being able to craft an indie-rock anthem around the chorus "I hate my friends, most of the time." Even the noise sounds sweet here.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Read the rest of this week's album reviews at metronews.ca/music

OT	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 10/23/08	265	353	2 TVO	Mighty Movers		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		London Hospital (N)		Masterworks (N)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Survivor: Gabon (N)		The Office (N)	SNL Update	(10:01) Life on Mars		News (N)
	-	-	5 SRC	Virginie (SC)	Infoman (SC)	À la recherche de Champlain		Grosse vie (N)	C.A. (N) (SC)	Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		La Zone
	209	342	6 CHRO	Robson Arms	TMZ (N)	Medium (N)		America's Next Top Model		(10:01) Eleventh Hour		News (N)
	196	311	7 CTV	etalk	Dance	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N)		ER "Parental Guidance"		News (N)
	208	303	8 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things (N)		Doc Zone (HDTV) (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	-	360	9 NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	The Office (N)	SNL Update	ER "Parental Guidance"		News (N)
	117	713	10 TVA	La Fièvre de la danse (SC)		Occupation double			Vlog (SC)	TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	-	-	11 QS	Grande fille	Loft Story	*Point de rupture* (2007, Suspense) Katheryn Winnick.				Cent dix pour cent (SC)		Loft Story
	137	763	12 TFO	Panorama		Météo	Aventures	*Au Hasard Balthazar* ★★★ (1966, Drame) Anne Wiazemsky.				Volt
	-	362	13 CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		Survivor: Gabon (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) Eleventh Hour		Two/Half Men
	216	395	14 OMN2	Cold Case		News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	214	344	15 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Ugly Betty (N)		Glam God With Vivica A. Fox		Friends	Friends	News (N)
	115	343	16 CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere III	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	218	345	18 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Name Is Earl	Kath & Kim (N)	*Thrill of the Kill* (2006, Suspense) Shiri Appleby.				News (N)
	-	361	20 ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	Ugly Betty (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) Life on Mars		News (N)
	512	396	24 CPAC	(4) Dossier public		À la une					Tête-à-tête	Dossier public
	651	355	25 CTS	Happy Days	Laverne	Michael Coren Show		100 Huntley Street		Life Today	This Is Day	John Hagee
	-	365	36 FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	MLB Baseball World Series Game 2 -- Philadelphia Phillies at Tampa Bay Rays.						MLB Postgame
	-	-	64 PBS	Business Rpt.	Whiz Quiz	Yes, Minister	Time Goes By	Monarch of the Glen		Ruth Rendell Mysteries		Tavis Smiley
	205	312	104 CTV	etalk	Dance	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N)		ER "Parental Guidance"		News (N)
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour Phil Town.		CBC News: The National		Hobbit Enigma (N)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
sports	406	417	27 net	Sportsnet Con.	MLB Pregame	MLB Baseball World Series Game 2 -- Philadelphia Phillies at Tampa Bay Rays. (Live)						
	126	730	28 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct sur l'économie		Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30 TSN	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at Boston Bruins. (HDTV) (Live)					NHL Hockey Edmonton Oilers at Colorado Avalanche.			
	410	403	52 SCR	Score on NFL	College Football Auburn at West Virginia. (Live)						Score Tonight	Score Tonight
	411	457	56 OLN	Ed's Up	Videos	Commando: On the Front Line		Survivorman		Pilot Guides Specials		Pilot Guides
	417	406	59 SC	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out		Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Wrecked (N)	Wrecked	Pinks
family	554	544	48 TEL	Planet Sketch	Ghosts-Scooby	Ghosts-Scooby	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	The Critic	Robot Chicken	Code Monkeys
	557	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	551	542	65 YTV	H2O, Just Add	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj	Mystery Hnt.
cable variety	570	580	29 MM	mmmtop	Back In	Spice Girls-Giving		Revival	Where You At	I Want to Work for Diddy		Party of Five
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Jacked: Theft	Jacked: Theft	The Rookies
	628	584	32 SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: NY (HDTV)		TNA iMPACT! (HDTV) (N)				UFC 90 Cnt
	521	560	34 TLC	LA Ink "Comic Relief"		Overhaulin' (HDTV)		American Chopper (N)		LA Ink Mötley Crüe. (N)		Amer. Chopper
	145	761	35 TV5	Toute une histoire		Club social		Complément d'enquête			Cartes	Journal TV5
	616	521	39 SHO	Painkiller Jane		ReGenesis (HDTV)		Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Saving Grace (HDTV)		House
	620	523	40 BVO	Desperate Housewives		Camera	In the Mind ...	*Liberty Stands Still* (2002, Suspense)			Bravonews	Law & Order
	520	505	42 DIS	Daily Planet (N)		Brazil Special 1 (N)		Brazil Special 2 (N)		MythBusters		Daily Planet
	575	583	43 CMT	Tara Diaries	The Wilkinsons	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Gone Country
	601	562	45 SLC	End of Leash	ET Canada	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		X-Weighted		The Biggest Loser		Rich Poor
	625	548	46 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	VIP	Choc. News	Daily Show
	294	529	47 TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Steve Harvey	Family Guy	Family Guy
	600	564	49 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes on Homes		The Fix	Disaster DIY	Home to Flip	Real Renos (N)	Holmes-Homes
	627	528	50 SPC	Lost "Orientation"		Star Trek: Voyager		Battlestar Galactica		Chuck (N)		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	53 MTV	Busted	After	MTV News	Cribs	EMA	Exiled	True Life		MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210		Make or Break	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier	Family Guy
	522	506	55 HIS	NCIS "UnSEALed"		Lost Worlds		Submarine: Mission Imp.		NCIS "UnSEALed"		Crime Stories
	129	773	60 CD	Biographies "Hugh Grant"		Dossiers justice (HDTV)		Dossiers FBI (HDTV)		Autopsie		Images-chocs
	261	394	61 V	Murder, She Wrote		Wait for God	Keeping Up	*Dave* ★★★ (1993, Comedy) Kevin Kline, Frank Langella.				Emily-Moon
	602	567	62 W	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Divine Design	Real Est	Love It-List It
	269	350	70 APTN	Suaangan (N)	Rez Rides	Next! Youth	renegadepress	*The Mask* ★★★ (1994, Comedy) Jim Carrey, Cameron Diaz.				Fish Out of
	621	527	71 TLK	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Look-A-Like	In Fashion	The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	603	561	95 FN	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Unwrapped	Secret Life of	Jamie's Kitchen Australia		Restaurant

critics' corner

The Nature of Things
Who wouldn't love his or her own R2-D2 or Rosie from "The Jetsons"? This new episode, "Rodney's Robot Revolution," profiles Rodney Brooks, a professor and expert on artificial intelligence who's on a mission to create a personal robot that ordinary people can actually afford. Brooks believes the human brain and body are machines. And humans know how to build machines, so what's to stop us from building smart ones? David Suzuki hosts. 8 PM on 8 CBC

Ugly Betty
Star wattage returns! Kimmie Keegan (guest star Lindsay Lohan) asks for Betty's (America Ferrera) help in finding a job at Mode even though employment is not especially high on her list of priorities. Daniel (Eric Mabius) decides to try a professional matchmaking service with surprising results — especially when you consider the fascinating traits of his "perfect" match. Meanwhile, Justin (Mark Indelicato) auditions for a Broadway musical. 8 PM on 20 ABC 15 CITY

Britney Spears driving case dismissed

PEOPLE A judge has dismissed a charge of driving without a licence against pop star Britney Spears, after jurors said they could not reach a verdict and a prosecutor said he would not pursue a retrial.

The charge stemmed from an August 2007 collision between Spears' vehicle and another car in a Los Angeles parking lot as photographers trailed her.

Prosecutors said Spears had lived in California since May 2006 and was legally required to get a licence from the state.

Her attorney argued she had a licence from her home state of Louisiana and did not legally need a California licence.

REUTERS

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

read it at metronews.ca

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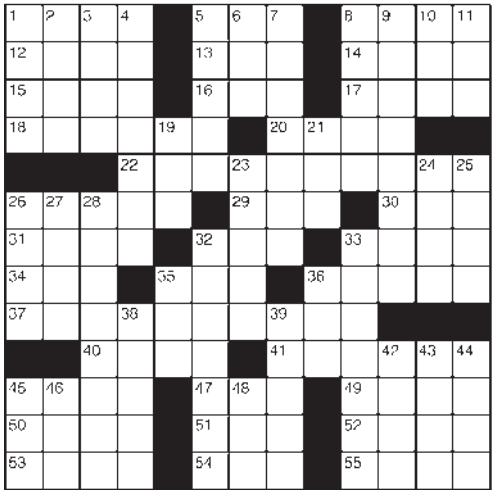

Crossword across

1 Long cut
5 Scrooge's cry
8 Treaty
12 Ready for the picking
13 Leading lady?
14 Perjurer
15 Concept
16 Author Fleming
17 Set of "Risk" tokens
18 Mark over a long vowel
20 Catnap
22 Trophy wife's partner
26 Speak like 51-Across
29 Central
30 100 square meters
31 Unctuous
32 Carton
33 Circulate
34 Praiseful poem
35 Entertainment
36 Horn noises
37 Britney and Christina, e.g.
40 Suspended
41 Spoof
45 Bridge
47 Part of UCLA
49 Responsibility
50 Teller's partner
51 Farm female
52 Elevator man
53 Bohemian
54 Gender
55 Zilch

Crossword down

1 Gloomy
2 Verdi opera
3 Detail, for short
4 Inadmissible testimony of a sort
5 Existence
6 Ms. Gardner
7 Woodstock headliner
8 Shopping center
9 Black-and-tan terrier
10 Rotating part
11 Attempt
19 Chic no more
21 Peculiar
23 Surrounded by
24 Let fall
25 Some evergreens
26 Not-so-ugly Betty
27 Beach resort
28 GOP symbol
32 Messes up
33 Decorate
35 Half a sawbuck
36 Support system?
38 Optimistic
39 New Jersey county
42 Digging
43 Destruction
44 Latin 5-Down
45 Masseur's workplace
46 Apiece
48 Have bills

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

8			7					
9		5		2	4			8
	6	7	1					
						3	9	
7		2				1		6
	5	8						
					1	5	4	
1			9	3		2		7
					2			9

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

7	8	9	5	4	3	1	2	6
1	2	5	7	9	6	8	3	4
6	4	3	8	2	1	9	7	5
3	6	2	9	8	4	7	5	1
5	9	7	1	3	2	6	4	8
8	1	4	6	5	7	2	9	3
2	7	8	3	6	5	4	1	9
9	3	1	4	7	8	5	6	2
4	5	6	2	1	9	3	8	7

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Recipe of the day

Piquant Pasta and Tuna Salad

INGREDIENTS:

8 oz (250 g) pasta twists or spirals, such as cavatappi, fusilli or rotini
2 tbsp (25 mL) olive oil
1 onion, chopped
1 garlic clove, chopped
2 zucchini, thinly sliced
2 tsp (10 mL) sugar
2 tbsp (25 mL) commercially prepared red or green pesto sauce
1 tbsp (15 mL) white or red wine vinegar
1 tbsp (15 mL) capers
6 tomatoes, halved and cut into thin wedges
1 can (6 oz/170 g) water-packed solid white tuna, drained and roughly flaked
6 black olives, pitted and halved
Garnish: Fresh flat-leaf parsley

METHOD:

1. Cook pasta according to package instructions, until al dente. Drain well, rinse with cold water, and drain again.
2. While pasta is cooking, heat 1 tbsp (15 mL) oil in a saucepan. Add onion and garlic, and sauté for three minutes, stirring often. Add remaining oil and zucchini and cook, stirring occasionally, for three minutes.
3. Add sugar, pesto, vinegar and capers to onion and zucchini. Heat for a few seconds, stirring until ingredients have combined to form a dressing. Stir in tomatoes, then transfer the mixture to large mixing bowl and set aside to cool.
4. Add drained pasta to the bowl. Gently mix in tuna and olives. Serve garnished with flat-leaf parsley leaves, if desired.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Readers Digest
ON CALL FOR YOU

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Someone cares deeply for you. A clever female makes the rounds. Giving special treatment to someone will become important.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You can help others fulfill their ambitions. Avoid alienating a brilliant leader. Fine people will create turmoil by the book.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Provide a rational explanation for a rebellious deed. Get somebody involved to facilitate a change. Look forward to fun and laughter.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Seize the moment to admit you were wrong. A mild-mannered male wants to tell the truth. A miraculous attitude change inspires rewards at work.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Prepare to take action when confronted. Identify those who'll stand with you in bad times. A poverty-stricken man makes a vague request.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Someone's cynicism becomes apparent. Examine things that make you anxious. Congratulate a geeky man for persisting.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Prepare to learn more about a critical person. Get rid of conflict by following the rules. A colleague has a dispute about a plan.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Research is hindered by private stuff behind the scenes. A reluctant person is an authority at work. A fool has to talk about ending a state of affairs.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Someone's gaze is more than you can bear. Certain dangerous things don't appeal to you. A young man makes time for happy news.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Be thankful for a friend's hard luck. Don't underestimate the ingenuity of a woman. A newcomer has a good reason to celebrate.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A mystery is solved when a phenomenon occurs. Concerned friends may not complain of poor treatment. Don't convince a friend he's wrong.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Bondage to an outworn fantasy begins to ease. Get your paperwork done before a playful encounter. An impatient man looks for the source of a problem.

This day in history

OCT. 23, 4004 BC: Creation of the world begins, according to the calculations of Archbishop James Ussher, but on the sunset of the preceding day.
OCT. 23, 1694: American colonial forces, led by Sir William Phipps, fail to seize Quebec.
OCT. 23, 1867: 72 Senators are summoned by Royal Proclamation to serve as the first members of the Canadian Senate.
OCT. 23, 1917: Lenin calls for the October Revolution.
OCT. 23, 1930:The first miniature golf tournament was completed in Chattanooga, Tennessee.
OCT. 23, 2001: Apple releases the iPod.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

WORDY GURDY

BY TRICKY DICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words, like FAT CAT and DOG HOG. TWO BLUE, and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Served a meal to newsman Koppel (1)
2. Possess a cell for cells (1)
3. Crystal formation recipe (1)
4. Indulge one who pays for lodgings (2)
5. Pet's pal postage stick-ons (1)
6. Bedroom footwear fastener with teeth (2)
7. Cheap restaurant foliage of a healthy color (1)

CAA

Cop show recruits Moynahan
Bridget Moynahan has signed on to co-star with Donnie Wahlberg in a new cop drama from Jerry Bruckheimer for TNT. E! NEWS ONLINE

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Celebrity Buzz

SUV passengers sue Lindsay

LEGAL Lindsay Lohan is being sued by three men in an SUV she drove during a car chase leading to her second DUI arrest last year, People.com reports.

The actress was "angry and aggressive" and the men "felt surprise, shock, fear and panic at Lohan's surprising and sudden act" of allegedly commandeering a car in which they happened to be sitting to chase her personal assistant through the streets of Santa Monica, Calif., according to the lawsuit.

Lohan's attorney, Ed McPherson, tells TMZ.com the lawsuit is "absurd."

The plaintiffs — Ronnie Blake, Jakon Sutter and Dante Nigro — are seeking unspecified damages in the case, filed in Superior Court in Santa Monica.

Although nobody was physically injured, their suit describes a wild, traumatic ride with Lohan allegedly angry and intoxicated as she went after the other car following a party.

"Dante and Jakon continued to implore Lohan to slow down, stating specifically that she was endangering all of their lives and that they could be killed," the lawsuit says. "Lohan refused to slow or stop, but instead responded with abusive cursing and vulgar language, including a statement that she did not care about the risk of death."

The lawsuit adds: "She also stated that because she was a celebrity she could do whatever she wants."

Following her arrest, Lohan reached a plea deal in the case and spent 84 minutes in jail for DUI.

She also was sued by the passenger in the car she allegedly chased.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Pink had nuptial doubt

RELATIONSHIPS Singer Pink reportedly knew her marriage to Carey Hart would never last, because neither of them could handle such a big commitment, female-first.co.uk reports.

Pink, who split from motocross star Hart earlier this year after two years of marriage, admits she had her doubts right from the start, even though she was the one who proposed.

"I proposed to him by holding up a sign saying 'Marry Me' when he was doing a motocross race. He nearly fell off his bike. To be honest, even when he said yes I knew there was a little part of both of us that couldn't handle being married," said the star, whose real name is Alecia Moore.

"We did it because we loved each other so much. We wanted to eat each other all the time we were together, but maybe marriage wasn't ever going to be our thing."

Pink is still struggling to come to terms with their split, adding: "I'm not over it. I love him."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Hannigan, hubby expecting their 1st

FAMILY Actress Alyson Hannigan is pregnant, her rep Megan Moss has told People.

The How I Met Your Mother star, 34, and her husband, actor Alexis Denisof, 42, will welcome their first child this spring, People.com reports.

The couple met on the set of Buffy the Vampire Slayer during the 1999-2000 season and were married at the Two Bunch Palms resort near Palm Springs, Calif., on Oct. 11, 2003.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Friend who set up Guy, Madonna opens up

RELATIONSHIPS As the one who originally introduced pop star Madonna and director Guy Ritchie nine years ago, Trudie Styler hopes the divorcing couple will stay friends, People.com reports.

"I wish them both well," Styler said. "I think they're destined to become great pals."

Styler also told Extra, "They're both big enough people to become great friends in time, and I'm sure that they will for the sake of their kids, if nothing else."

Styler and her husband, singer Sting, set up Madonna and Ritchie during a 1999 dinner party at their Wiltshire, England, home.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hough hospitalized

PEOPLE Julianne Hough has been taken to hospital after suffering abdominal pains backstage on Dancing With The Stars, imdb.com reports.

Professional dancer Hough was taken to Los Angeles Cedars-Sinai Medical Center following her performance on the program Tuesday night.

She had been complaining of stomach pains prior to her appearance, but after her dance, with celebrity partner, actor Cody Linley, an ambulance was called to take her to hospital, according to TMZ.com.

"She was experiencing slight stomach pains all day that increased and the doctors thought it was best to have them checked out," her representative Cindy Guagenti tells Access Hollywood.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Davis, Mahoney in Treatment
Former Frasier star John Mahoney and actress Hope Davis are the latest additions to the Season 2 cast of In Treatment, starring Gabriel Byrne. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

Celebrity Buzz

HELLO! Hot shot of the week

ANWAR HUSSEIN/GETTY

Prince William, 26, and his younger brother Harry, 24, rev up for a gruelling eight-day, 1,500-km motorcycle trek in Africa to raise money for three causes including Harry's own charity, Sentebale, which funds community projects in Lesotho. "It's going to be very challenging," said Harry, "and we're expecting to fall off many a time."
HELLO! CANADA magazine, now available on newsstands — read more at hellomagazine.ca

Rumours irk Dakota's director

PEOPLE Moviemaker Rowan Woods has denied branding child star Dakota Fanning difficult to work with, insisting the rumours are not true, imdb.com reports.

Woods directed the 14-year-old star in new film Winged Creatures and was recently reported to have called her a "disaster" on-set over her diva-like behaviour.

But Woods is adamant that he never made the comments and has praised the teenager for her professionalism.

"I am very upset and disappointed on behalf of Dakota that such untruths have spun around the Internet in regards to Dakota and Winged Creatures and that those opinions be attributed to me. They are not my opinions," Woods writes in a statement to Defamer.com. "Dakota Fanning is an incredible actor and a wonderful person. I am proud to be associated with Dakota's amazing performance."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Paris denies texting princes

PEOPLE Paris Hilton has phoned home from London to clear up royal romantic rumours, imdb.com reports.

The socialite called into Ryan Seacrest's radio show in Los Angeles recently to address British tabloid reports she has been caught flirting with Princes William and Harry after meeting the brothers in London.

Hilton told Seacrest she has met with William and Harry, but there's nothing to the rumours, and she's not texting love notes to either of them.

"They're very nice boys, very down to earth and sweet but there's nothing romantic going on at all," she said. "They just came up and said hello. There's no texting going on; I'm reading that I invited them to Las Vegas to a club — that never happened. I have a boyfriend (rocker Benji Madden) ... I would never say that in a million years and it just annoys me that particularly the media out in the U.K., they will not only make up stories, they'll also go as far to make up quotes that I supposedly said."

Hilton is in London shooting a British version of her reality show My Bff.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Did Jennifer pop the question?

GOSSIP Following rumours that newly reunited couple Jennifer Aniston and singer John Mayer are expecting a baby (which her rep has denied), comes this bit of gossip from Star magazine: The actress proposed to the singer.

After a reported barrage of romantic e-mails from him, "she said that she'd only take him back if they got married, and he agreed," says a source. "They both know this is it. She wants to settle down, and finally, so does he. They've even talked about having a family, and John said that he couldn't imagine doing it with anyone but her."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kate may purchase Caribbean getaway

PEOPLE Kate Moss is reportedly planning to buy a Caribbean home to share with her boyfriend Jamie Hince, imdb.com reports.

The couple have enjoyed an on-off relationship, breaking up last month, but reuniting soon afterwards.

But despite their rocky relationship, the model reportedly is set to invest in a property in Puerto Rico, so she can continue her relationship with The Kills frontman away from prying eyes.

"She wants somewhere very private and reckons she and Jamie could find peace and tranquility on the island," a source tells Britain's The Sun newspaper.

"It will be her special place where she can escape from the limelight," the source added.

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